SANITIZED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 96-93
By cb , NARA Date 2-24-97

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3157

SITUATION ROOM LOG

DATE 8-9 April 1965

DUTY OFFICER Bill Joy

TIME	ACTION
1907	Weather recce and fighter sweep launched from Coral Sea. (fighter sweep is group sent up to entice MIG reactinn)
1930	Hi-alt fighter sweep for off-shore reaction off from Ranger. NMCC reports 4F4Bs in each group.
2010	Critic report [redacted] possible merge of CHICOM fighters with US aircraft over Hainan island; Mr. Bundy present and aware of possibilities.
1.5(c)	
2030	Critic two [redacted] preliminary info indicates US aircraft have engaged CHICOM fighters near Hainan. It begins to look like high-alt sweep group is involved and NMCC has asked CINCPAC for details.
2100	USJ-790 reports US fighters definitely engaging CHICOM MIGS...still no confirmation from CINCPAC.
2104	Ranger has commenced strike launch, with TOT 2230EST.
2110	Mr. Smith briefed on possibilities re US/CHICOM engagement.
2120	Coral Sea strike group off...TOT 2150EST.
2155	Ranger reports on telcon to NMCC that 1F4B from flight of four missing, other three recovered.
2215	Mr. Smith briefed; said call Mr. Bundy immediately with what we have.
2220	Mr. Bundy briefed; asked that we get note to President.
2250	Note delivered. (attached)
2255	Mr. Cooper briefed.
2315	Conferred with Cooper re FBIS 31...HO Chi Minh statement of prior conditions before negotiations.
2330	Mike Cook called in, also Cmdr Josephson for second time; briefed.
2345	Conferred with State on AP1 mentioning sentencing to death of cong saboteur...Hertz life in balance. DO mentioned that press report appeared quite strong.

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SITUATION ROOM LOG

DATE 8-9 April

DUTY OFFICER Joy

TIME	ACTION
0002	Mr. Smith called; briefed on US-CHICOM dogfight and loss 1F4B; AP item on cong sentence., and fact White House spokesman (presumably press) had no comment. He asked that we try get Taylor cable on this matter to Reedy for background if possible; also wants call if Mr. Bundy calls. (learned that Sid Roberts had called Reedy at 2348)
0045	OP-4 from Coral Sea lists 10 prop, 20 jets being recovered--no losses. Pilots report 1 hit on road bed Tam Da bridge but all other bombs fell into water due wind.
0047	Mr. Cooper called; said he just got call from Hertz' brother in Va and he most upset re press reporting of trial and death sentence of vc saboteur; DO briefed him on what we had; he to call State.
0120	Critic reports Chicom fighters orbiting 20 miles fro Qui Vinh in vicinity of 2010N/10620E.
0130	Requested NMCC check press report of helio crash on DaNang main street.; 4 US wounded, 2Vietnamese. (MACV in answer this request reported helio crashed due engine trouble at 2015EST with injuries as reported by press)
0135	Conferred with State who had talked with Emb Saigon re Hertz. Emb has follwoed no comment policy re press; suggests State give Hertz' brother quiet reassurances and caution him against taliking to press. State has done this...brother calmed abit.
0258	Coral Sea aircraft off on restrike at 0200EST; TOT 0346. Ranger planes launch retrike at 0215EST.
0333	OP-4 from Ranger reports 8prop, 33jet strike reports many hits near bridge but bridge still standing; no flak, only small arms fire; all aircraft recovered.
0337	Air Force has recovered all aircraft in strike on Qui Vinh.
0730	Wrap-up on strike and CHICOM MIG encounter delivered to President. (NMCC General Cox had just called stating the President had queried them twice during night, at 1230 and 0400...)
0800	Mr. Reedy called by DO and given more details re vc sentencing.

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